Declaring 1857 uses places of Uttarakhand as monuments

†3141. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that prominent leaders of freedom struggle of 1857 took shelter in some parts of Uttarakhand State during the war;

(b) if so, the names of such freedom fighters and the places of their stay in Uttarakhand during that period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop those places as monuments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per information received from the Government of Uttarakhand, late Shri Vijay singh, prominent freedom fighter amongst those who participated in the freedom struggle of 1857, had taken shelter in village Kunja Bahadarpur, Tehsil Roorkee, District Haridwar of Uttarakhand. A martyr's memorial constructed in his memory is already in existence in village Kunja Bahadarpur.

Declaring memorial of Shri Abbas Tayyabji a National Monument

†3142. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from various organisations and public representatives to declare the memorial of great freedom fighter late Shri Abbas Tayyabji situated in Mussoorie (Uttarakhand) as national monument;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken decision in this regard keeping in veiw his special contribution in national freedom movement and promotion of national integrity;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the memorial would be declared as national monument; and

(d) the details of steps to be taken to preserve this memorial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee to look into pending cases of freedom fighters pension

3143. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government appointed a committee to look into the pending requests for freedom fighters pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has started functioning;

(d) if so, the meetings held and pending requests cleared; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay in commencing the functioning of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The Government has constituted two Committees, namely, (i) the

Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters to look into the issues related to freedom fighters and give suggestions for redressal of their problems and complaints and improving the facilities given to them and their dependents; and (ii) the Screening Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters to scrutinize the pension cases relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement which were referred to the concerned State Governments for re-verification. Three meetings of the Committee of eminent Freedom Fighters have been held so far in which a number of suggestions were given, *inter alia,* for improving the facilities provided to freedom fighters and expediting the pension cases. Similarly, three meetings of the Screening Committee of Eminent Freedom Fighters have also been held. The Screening Committee is in the process of scrutinizing cases relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement in which re-verification reports have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

ISI-backed espionage modules

3144. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's ISI-backed terror Modules are extending tentacles far and wide;

(b) whether Centre admitted a significant presence of ISI-backed espionage modules which are at work, entrusted with the task of spying State secrets;

(c) whether Uttar Pradesh emerged major hub for such spying for ISI agents and 10 ISI-backed espionage modules have been neutralized in Agra, Meerut, Varanasi, etc. during the last three years (2004-07);

(d) whether his Ministry has constituted inter-state intelligence support teams and security and intelligence agencies belonging to the Centre and States to check their activities; and

(e) to what extent these agencies have succeeded in the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The involvement of ISI-backed terrorist groups/ modules have come to light in various terrorist incidents in the country. Further, as per available information, although a number of ISI-backed espionage and terrorist modules have been busted in the country, it would however be inappropriate to presume that ISI-backed terror/espionage modules are extending their tentacles far and wide or that their presence is significant. It is correct that 10 ISI-backed espionage modules have been neutralized in Uttar Pradesh during 2004-2007, but it can not be said that Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a major hub for spying by ISI agents. The Inter-State Intelligence Support Teams (ISISTs) have been constituted for dealing with internal threats concerning more than one State. The Central Government has been sensitizing the State Governments about the activities of ISI. The Central and State security and intelligence agencies by maintaining close coordination have also devised strategies to counter such threats, which is reflected by the number of such modules busted from time to time.

Misappropriation of funds allocated for Tsunami relief

3145. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been misappropriation of funds allocated for the Tsunami relief;